

projects under which medicare beneficiaries receiving benefits under the medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act are provided with coverage of enhanced benefits or services under such program. The purpose of such projects is to evaluate whether the provision of such enhanced benefits or services to such beneficiaries—

(A) improves the quality of care provided to such beneficiaries under the medicare program;

(B) improves the health care delivery system under the medicare program; and

(C) results in reduced expenditures under the medicare program.

(2) ENHANCED BENEFITS OR SERVICES.—For purposes of this section, enhanced benefits or services shall include—

(A) preventive services not otherwise covered under title XVIII of the Social Security Act;

(B) chronic care coordination services;

(C) disease management services; or

(D) other benefits or services that the Secretary determines will improve preventive health care for medicare beneficiaries, result in improved chronic disease management, and management of complex, life-threatening, or high-cost conditions and are consistent with the goals described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1).

(b) PROJECT SITES AND DURATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (e)(2), the projects under this section shall be conducted—

(A) in a region or regions that are comparable (as determined by the Secretary) to the region or regions that are designated as a highly competitive region under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 1858(i)(1) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 231 of this Act; and

(B) during the years that the region or regions are designated as such a highly competitive region.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a comparable region does not necessarily mean the identical region.

(c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall waive compliance with the requirements of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) only to the extent and for such period as the Secretary determines is necessary to provide for enhanced benefits or services consistent with the projects under this section.

(d) BIENNIAL GAO REPORTS.—Not later than January 1, 2011, and biennially thereafter for as long as the projects under this section are being conducted, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Secretary and Congress a report that evaluates the projects. Each report shall include—

(1) an evaluation of—

(A) the quality of care provided to beneficiaries receiving benefits or services under the projects;

(B) the satisfaction of beneficiaries receiving benefits or services under the projects;

(C) the costs to the medicare program under the projects; and

(D) any improvements in the delivery of health care services under the projects; and

(2) recommendations for such legislation or administrative action as the Comptroller General determines to be appropriate.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Payments for the costs of carrying out the projects under this section shall be made from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i) and the Federal Supplementary Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t), as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) LIMITATION.—The total amount expended under the medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (including all amounts expended as a result of the projects under this section) during the period or year, as applicable, may not exceed—

(A) for the period beginning on January 1, 2009, and ending on September 30, 2013, an amount equal to the total amount that would have been expended under the medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act during the period if the projects had not been conducted plus \$6,000,000,000; and

(B) for fiscal year 2014 and any subsequent fiscal year, an amount equal to the total amount that would have been expended under the medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B of such title during the year if the projects had not been conducted.

(3) MONITORING AND REPORTS.—

(A) ONGOING MONITORING BY THE SECRETARY TO ENSURE FUNDING LIMITATION IS NOT VIOLATED.—The Secretary shall continually monitor expenditures made under title XVIII of the Social Security Act by reason of the projects under this section to ensure that the limitations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) are not violated.

(B) REPORTS.—Not later than April 1 of each year (beginning in 2010), the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress and the Comptroller General of the United States that includes—

(i) a detailed description of—

(I) the total amount expended under the medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (including all amounts expended as a result of the projects under this section) during the previous year compared to the total amount that would have been expended under the original medicare fee-for-service program in the year if the projects had not been conducted;

(II) the projections of the total amount expended under the medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (including all amounts expended as a result of the projects under this section) during the year in which the report is submitted compared to the total amount that would have been expended under the original medicare fee-for-service program in the year if the projects had not been conducted;

(III) amounts remaining within the funding limitation specified in paragraph (2); and

(IV) how the Secretary will change the scope, site, and duration of the projects in subsequent years in order to ensure that the limitations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) are not violated; and

(ii) a certification from the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that the descriptions under subclauses (I), (II), (III), and (IV) of clause (i) are reasonable, accurate, and based on generally accepted actuarial principles and methodologies.

(4) APPLICATION OF LIMITATION.—If the Secretary determines that the projects under this section will cause the limitations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) to be violated, the Secretary shall take appropriate steps to reduce spending under the projects, including through reducing the scope, site, and duration of the projects.

(5) AUTHORITY.—Beginning in 2014, the Secretary shall make necessary spending adjustments (including pro rata reductions in payments to health care providers under the medicare program) to recoup amounts so that the limitations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) are not violated.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, June 26, 2003, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a BUSINESS MEETING on pending Committee matters.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to consider the nomination of Lieutenant General John P. Abizaid, USA, for appointment to the grade of General and to be commander, United States Central Command.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Wednesday, June 25 at 10:00 a.m. to consider pending calendar business.

On Wednesday, June 25, at 10:00 a.m., the Committee will hold a Business Meeting in Room SD-366 to consider the following items on the Agenda:

Agenda Item #3: S. 470—A bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Agenda Item #4: S. 490—A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California.

Agenda Item #6: S. 546—A bill to provide for the protection of paleontological resources on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

Agenda Item #7: S. 643—A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the University of New Mexico, to construct and occupy a portion of the Hibben Center for Archaeological Research at the University of New Mexico.

Agenda Item #8: S. 651—A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to clarify Federal authority relating to land acquisition from willing sellers for the majority of the trails in the System, and for other purposes.

Agenda Item #9: S. 677—A bill to revise the boundary of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.